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Honors Humanities

Entry #2

Summary:

During the next section of the book, Dr. Rieux realizes the definite cause of the sudden deaths. At first the doctor was skeptical, but he then became sure, remembering studies that he had read from past years. It was a plague. Suspecting that the downfall was caused by the bubonic plaque, the community people in the city of Oran didn’t run wild. Everyone fortunately tried to stay calm and contact relatives outside of Oran to say their goodbyes. The city immediately stopped mailing and transporting things from and to the city to prevent the plague from spreading beyond the city walls.

Hope in the community is gradually being lost because everyone feels trapped. The people are completely exiled and feel as though their time on earth is slowly fading away. Not wanting to show fear, the citizens show their pride and go about the days with an attempt to live life to the fullest. The café is still open as well as the movie theater.

Suddenly, the story takes a small twist. A man named Rambert tries to escape the city to see his wife who is in Paris. At first he tries to get a doctor’s note from Dr. Rieux and explains that he has no real connection with the dirty disease or community. As the doctor refuses to write a letter introducing Rambert as a free man, Rambert is stuck in the city plotting for an escape.

Analysis:

I’m actually really getting into the story. Unlike the last book I read, this one has a twist that is so realistic. I could only imagine the heart ache this man is going through not being able to see his wife. At the same time, I wondered if he was using her as an excuse to get out of the city. I understand why he is stuck in though. Why contaminate the towns outside of Oran? I honestly can’t fathom being healthy around a large community of sick people because I somewhat have a phobia of a germs.

Application:

The essential question is provided to further an understanding when analyzing the characters and their reactions to society and each other. In this section of “The Plague,” human behavior was extremely vital, followed by human ideals and nature.

As far as human behavior goes, I felt like every character, from the most important to the least important, showed persistent leadership, direction and offered an opportunity to better the understanding of human nature. Although the gates were closed to the city, everyone stayed calm for the most part and had the attitude that encouraged each other, rather than depressed everyone. “So they went on strolling about the town like usual and sitting at the tables on the café terraces.” Although one specific person didn’t lead the group particularly, I feel like everyone was a help. There was a balance of emotion and a clear understanding of the risks when dealing with the disease.

Feeling as though the human ideas were also essential, the story line of this section does just what was expected of the ideal. The characters were seeking perfection, even though it was unattainable. Perfection was shown in ways that reveal the acceptance of truth. Each character didn’t dread on the fact that they were most likely going to die, they eventually looked forward. Everything is casual around town. They even wrote to their families wishing the good health, much unexpected. “In this, too, the reaction of the public was slower than expected.”

Socially, the character responses to others, like referred to in the above, was very calm and considerate. There wasn’t a big emotional response between the characters themselves, but they were definitely spiritually inclined. They prayed to their God for forgiveness and health. “On the Sunday of the sermon a huge congregation filled the nave, overflowing onto the steps and precincts.”